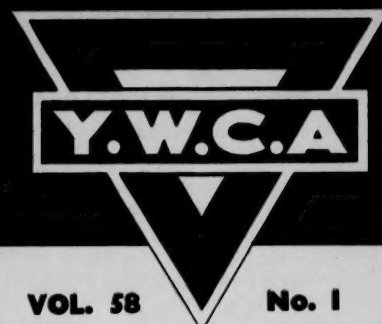


THE BLUE TRIANGLE

WAR-TIME EDITION



JANUARY, 1940

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE Y.W.C.A. OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

Patrons:
H.M. THE QUEEN and H.M. QUEEN MARY.

**THE QUALITY OF LIFE
IS AS IMPORTANT
AS ITS PRESERVATION**

VOL. 58

No. 1

National Offices: Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL BUILDING,
GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

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OUR Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, gave a good start to the Y.W.C.A. War Emergency Appeal by a donation of £100 sent with a charming letter giving her blessing and good wishes. On the very day the appeal was opened, Lord Nuffield called at the Headquarters in London and promised a donation of £10,000 to the fund as soon as the first £10,000 was obtained. Since that day donations large and small have been coming in and we have almost obtained that £10,000! But the War Work Appeal is aiming at a great deal more than that first £100,000, and later, if the war continues very long, £500,000.

SOME OF THE THINGS Y.W.C.A. MEMBERS ARE DOING

Health Lectures for A.T.S. are held in the Bristol Y.W.C.A.

COVENTRY Y.W.C.A. have adopted a ship! They are sending cigarettes, chocolates, "woollies," and magazines.

NORTH SHIELDS Y.W.C.A. have made wheelbarrows, wooden bricks, cut-out animals and dolls' prams for children of evacuated nursery schools.

WORKINGTON have collected APPLES for the troops.

HUNSLET run a play school two days a week for non-evacuated children.

NORWICH also has a play-centre.

ACTON are starting a play hour in the Gymnasium once a week at 2.30 and soon hope to have a crowd of youngsters between the ages of seven and eleven.

The NORTH HULL (Mothers) Friendly Club has been particularly active in their Service Group, sending blankets, hospital socks, dressing jackets, babies' vests and coverlets into the Hospital Supply Depot.

ALMOST EVERYONE IS KNITTING and learning first aid, so we are not mentioning it specially, but carry on with the good work! For more "news" see inside, and, please, Magazine Secretaries, send your news by JANUARY 9th and make it snappy!—Ed.

WORK FOR WOMEN IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

Requests for Recreational Centres and Canteens for A.T.S., W.A.A.F.s and W.R.N.S. are coming in steadily, and over 30 different pieces of extension work of this sort are now in hand. Here are details about some of them:—

A Recreation Centre near London is now open in a house near the A.T.S. Barracks. There was a most successful official opening by the Lady Helen Graham, attended by the C.O. and other officers.

An Army hut is being turned into a Club and Canteen in a large camp in DORSET. The camp is three miles from the nearest village and about ten miles from the nearest town, so the Canteen, like others, will include such necessities as face creams, shingle nets, soap, tooth paste, as well as "eats."

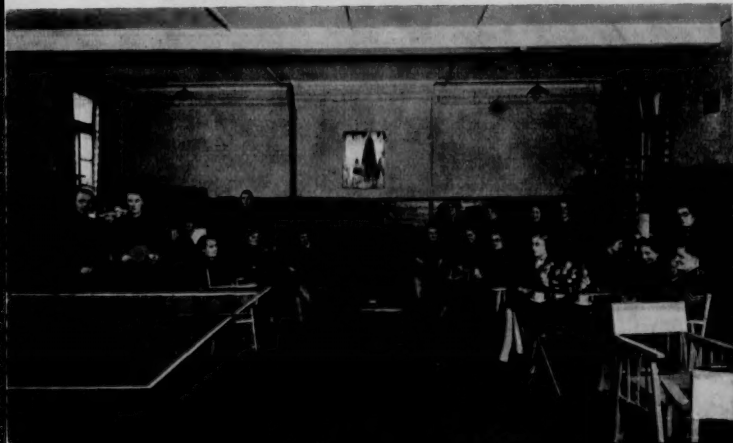
A Club Organiser has been appointed to plan temporary Club work for a large number of A.T.S. attached to a big depot in the MIDLANDS, and a Club House has been secured in the village where there are the largest number of women billeted.

At a well-known SOUTH-WESTERN PORT land has been secured and a hut is now being erected for a United Services Recreation Canteen to serve A.T.S., W.R.N.S. and Military V.A.D.s. We are hoping to open a Canteen in response to an urgent request for about 400 A.T.S. and civil clerks employed in a large Military Record Office near one of the OUTER LONDON suburbs, where, naturally, the restaurants and cafés are few and far between. We have secured an excellent Church Hall, which will be run as a lunch-time cafeteria.

As part of a larger scheme for women in uniform, a cricket pavilion has been obtained and adapted for a Club for Military V.A.D.s and Nurses in a well-known SOMERSET health resort.

We hear that the Anglo-American Y.W.C.A. Hostel in Rue d'Anjou, in PARIS, is the only institution of this kind remaining open, and that preparations are being made to welcome women war workers, nurses and ambulance drivers.

IN THE FIRST Y.W.C.A. HUT FOR A.T.S.



COMFORT! COMPLETE WITH CAT!



ANGELS AND GUNS

A Message from Miss Moira Neill, of the World's Y.W.C.A. Staff in Geneva.

IT is always a joy to start the New Year with the memory of those few days of the Christmas season spent almost in an enchanted world with the Wise Men and the Shepherds, the singing Angels, and the Star shining down on the humble stable where the Baby, Who is God Almighty, is asleep in His mother's arms. And yet I wonder whether this year it has been too difficult for people to catch the Angels' song of peace on earth to men of goodwill, or to worship at the feet of Him Who is the Prince of Peace. Maybe those who are not Christians are being more real than we when they say it is all a fairy tale and an escape from the tragedy of the world. Which is true? The message of the Christ Child or the fear and horror and unbelief in the hearts of men and women? Which is the stronger? The song of the Angels or the thunder of guns? Who is Lord?—the Baby in the manger or the Evil one?

Our answers to these questions will make a great deal of difference to the way in which we face this New Year, and the difference is between hope and despair, between enthusiasm for work to be done for the future, and cynicism about the possibility of a new world.

We do not only look back to Christmas but we look on to Good Friday and to Easter morning, and then we see the Child grown to manhood, suffering the worst that men can do to the Love of God, dying in an agony of realisation of what sin really is, and yet emerging victorious over all. And the story of what happened to Jesus in time is the story of what God is doing in eternity—giving Himself, suffering yet victorious.

One of the reasons why I am sure that the Message of Christmas is true and why I go forward into the New Year with hope, is because I know, and try to remember every day, that in the fellowship of the world wide Church the Prince of Peace is Lord. I know because of the care and sacrifice of the different National Associations in the World's Y.W.C.A. for each other; I know it because of the Conference in Holland last summer, where fifteen hundred young people full of national prejudices and misunderstandings were able to go away knowing that there was one supreme loyalty in their lives and that was to Jesus Christ; I know it because every time I go into a Church to worship I am one with my fellow Christians in Germany as in this country, in East and West, and throughout the world. This message of the Conference says somewhere that we are called "to train and discipline ourselves to live daily in the world-wide Christian community," and I know of no better New Year resolution to make than that. In that community, full of weakness and failure as it is, God is King and the Angels' Song of Peace over earth is slowly but surely being fulfilled.

BETTER THAN EVER!

HOW WE CELEBRATED WORLD FELLOWSHIP WEEK

"Patriotism is good, but not enough," said Canon Mannering, speaking at the united Y.W.-Y.M. service in BRISTOL Cathedral. A similar united service was also held in BRADFORD. At the LONDON service, held this year in Bloomsbury Baptist Church, Rev. Robert Mackie surprised his audience by saying he never "listened-in," but he had interesting first-hand stories of Prague to tell. The Great Archimandrite of the Eastern Church, a French and a German pastor also took part. Y.W.-Y.M. services were also held at LEICESTER and several other centres. NOTTINGHAM had a "chain of prayer" for a day.

NOTTINGHAM Y.W.C.A.—"Now thank we all our God" was sung in English and afterwards in German, and the Lord's Prayer repeated in both languages at the close of an International Banquet given to 200 guests, 80 of them refugees.

ACTON held an International Party, when the guests of the evening were Austrians and Germans who came in their national costumes and delighted us all with their singing and dancing. After supper we joined in some of their dances and finished up with prayers. The following evening a grand banquet was held (price 9d.) in the Cafeteria, when Miss Moira Neill (the Youth Secretary of the World's Y.W.C.A.) talked to us.

"UGLY WOMEN and a TERRIBLE CLIMATE"

KENDAL had an International Supper to which we invited 19 refugees from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. About 160 members were present. Miss Somervell introduced each guest personally. Most replied in their own language and then translated into English, which made it all the more interesting. One of our guests amused us greatly by saying that before he came to England he had always thought of it as a place of terrible climate and very ugly women, but after a period of four months he had entirely changed his outlook!

Introductions complete, we had community singing, beginning with the beautiful German song, "Die Lorelei." This was followed by "Loch Lomond" and "John Peel."

BLACKBURN says: "The Treaty of Versailles was the subject for Current Events that week. There was no sign of war at our International Tea Party when Dutch, Poles, Austrians, Germans and an Indian lady were invited."

DARWEN enjoyed a Norwegian night enlivened with appropriate costumes and photographs taken by Miss Thompson, the Club Leader.

NEWCASTLE and the NORTH-EAST entertained an Indian Princess, Kunwar-rani, Lady Mahara Singh, wife of a well-known Maharajah, is a Vice-President of the Y.W.C.A. of India, Burma, and Ceylon. She visited and delighted several Clubs in the North-Eastern Division, and made present-day problems in India very real to the members. One of her great interests was improving conditions in the Women's Prison in Lucknow. She has two sons and, a daughter at college and school in England.

BIRMINGHAM was visited by Miss Speirs from Jerusalem Y.W.C.A. where twenty different nationalities meet. The physical work is taught there by the first Palestine Arab girl who has ever qualified in physical culture. Miss Graupner, of Czechoslovakia, also spoke at Birmingham Clubs.

BRADFORD Annual Overseas Tea Party had an Australian guest, Miss Robertson, who has recently returned from Y.W.C.A. work in India. Social reform in Madras was Miss Robertson's special subject. Club members performed a North, South, East and West Pageant. [Please send us a copy of this Pageant, Bradford!—Ed.]

Fellowship in MERTHYR, Wales, took the form of a service in which Anglicans and Free Church clergy joined.

SERVICE GROUP, HULL Y.W.C.A. CLUB FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS!—90 attended!

With acknowledgments to Hull Daily Mail.



FILM NOTES

"The Lion Has Wings."—Everyone should try to see this picture as it gives one an opportunity to understand the immense job the R.A.F. has in this war. Don't you like the title? I cannot think of a more appropriate one. Personally, I thought the first half of the film was better than the second, and did wish that they had not tried to introduce the story element, as much as I like Ralph Richardson and Merle Oberon, and I cannot imagine why a sequence from "Fire Over England" was put in at the end. To my mind it seemed quite out of place and quite unnecessary, but the building up of the picture from the opening scenes of England in peace time, the contrast between Germany with Hitler at its head and the easy-go-as-you-please England, leading up to the declaration of war, could not have been better done.

"The First Days."—This is a short picture produced by the G.P.O. Film Unit about the very first days of the war—and doesn't it seem a long time ago? It doesn't try and "propagand" anything, but just gives an account of those first few days in September. The photography is excellent.

"On the Night of the Fire."—Not everybody's taste! This is a crime film in very tragic setting, showing how the murderer sooner or later will betray himself. Ralph Richardson plays the part of the murderer and Diana Wynward his wife. Don't go to this if you want relaxation.

"Daughters Courageous."—Light, amusing story of American family life, featuring three of the four famous Lane sisters and Gail Page, also Fay Bainton and Claude Rains. Relaxing entertainment.

SCOTTISH NEWS

Contributions should be as concise as possible. Please send them to 116 George Street, Edinburgh, by 25th of the month.

BLACK-OUT PROGRAMMES: The "black-out" is a testing-time, a challenge to ingenuity and cheerfulness. Time that might have been wasted on grumbling has been spent by Clubs in the resourceful planning of programmes.

If a Club cannot function, members have offered the hospitality of their homes, and the convoy system guides groups safely to their destination. Take, for instance, Glasgow Hamilton Hill "House Group," where ten girls with their leader met in the home of a member in a new housing area and knitted to the accompaniment of enthusiastic singing.

QUIETUDE: But the best way out of the black-out is to come into the Quiet Room, where at Ayr, and elsewhere, "prayers are held every evening, and it is a room which means a great deal to every Club member." At Aberdeen "the Club Chapel is open all day for prayer and intercession."

KEEP-FIT: Clubs do well to be concentrating on keep-fit. It is terribly important these days, when such physical movements steady our nerve, stimulate energy, and strengthen our will power, thus keeping up the morale of the home front.

OVERSEAS CONCERT: An interesting occasion was the international concert in the Overseas Club, Edinburgh, on 2nd December, organised by Mrs. Carstairs, who has an exceptional knowledge of Indian life and whose etchings adorned the programmes. The hall was crowded for a varied programme of Indian music, Chinese recitations, a Scottish quartette, all given by their own nationals, also Hungarian and Czech dances in picturesque costume.

A MIXED DEBATE

CROYDON: "The amenities and facilities of the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. should be jointly accommodated." (What a mouthful!) Sixty-one girls and men voted, after a spirited debate, on this motion. The result was 32 votes to 29 in favour. This debate was a very bright affair, with a note of real thoughtfulness underlying the wit and banter. The Y.M. and Y.W. are working very closely together, meeting at one or other centre four or five times a week. One month's Club attendances were 2,000.



HINTS FOR CITIZENS

Will it get there?—Recently it was announced that some 6,000 parcels sent to H.M. Forces had not so far reached their destination because of wrong or inadequate addresses or because they had come to pieces en route. What a waste! Especially when the sender can avoid this disappointment and loss by doing two things—(1) seeing that the full details of address are given; (2) seeing that the parcel is packed properly.

Hints.—Pack the things you are sending firmly together in strong brown paper with corrugated cardboard, or, better still, in a tin box. String together strongly, well knotting where the string crosses, and write the full address in ink or indelible pencil (name, number, rank or rating, port or place where unit is stationed, or B.E.F. if you are sure the receiver is serving in Forces overseas). Then make a final outside wrapping of hessian or canvas (obtainable at a few pence a yard from a linen draper). Sew together with thread or twine and string across in the usual way with strong knotting. Then in two places write in the full address and (this is important) write in a lower corner, "From So-and-So," giving your own full name and address. Printing or script writing is clearer than ordinary handwriting. An attached label alone is not enough.

BEAUTY SPOTS and JAZZ

We are glad to hear of talks on subjects designed to take people's minds off the war. This is from CAMBRIDGE, Mr. Pilkington, of Cambridge University, told the Club about "Beauty Spots Within Easy Reach of Cambridge," using coloured lantern slides.

"Why Not Jazz?" was the subject chosen by Dr. Vidor, of Hungary. She used gramophone records and played the piano to illustrate her remarks. In spite of the title, she evidently believed that, although jazz could stimulate and refresh one to a certain extent, for real help from music one must still turn to the classics. Other speakers have been Mr. Basil Maine, of the "Sunday Times" and B.B.C., and Mr. Paterson, of Africa.

BRISTOL.—With Lady Inskip as guest 70 Bristol "Wayfarers" celebrated the tenth birthday of this Y.W.C.A. Club with a party and a suitable cake. It was a happy idea to have the Harvest Thanksgiving the same evening and send gifts to a nursery school and to the evacuated mothers and children who are occupying the Holiday House. There are eight children, ranging from eight weeks of age to three years.

HULL Central Club is running now with a full programme, the Supper Clubs and Saturday Evening Dances being very popular.

TAUNTON grew almost overnight: "A large lounge with ping-pong, darts, etc.—a rest room, library, bathroom and canteen"—this is how Taunton describes its new premises, which are already crowded out. "Tea and salmon sandwiches, please," say the A.T.S. and their friends when they drop in at 5 p.m. For refugees there is an International Circle which meets over teacups twice a week. "Aliens" are being helped through the "ordeal" of the Tribunal at the request of the Society of Friends.

TORQUAY: "The members and Secretary of Y.W.C.A. have welcomed many new members this session. Classes and games have been arranged for each day of the week and they are well attended. We are all very happy in our new Club-rooms and a nice rest room has been added. Members also seem to be taking more interest in our weekly devotional meetings."

BOOMPS-A-DAISY and BUTTERED-COBS!

A LEICESTER "Pioneer" writes: "Our meetings begin with dancing and games, and we are learning all the latest, such as Booms-a-Daisy, and after that we sit down to rest and knit squares in different colours and then sew them together to make blankets for the refugees. After having a good rest and cool down a lady comes and takes us for 'keep fit.' For our Saturday afternoon amusement we have formed a hockey team. We have planned out the whole of a very interesting winter programme. Last week we had a camp-fire supper which consisted of buttered cobs with cheese and cocoa, and the week before that we had an American supper."